



1220 Falls Road
PO Box 143, Grafton
262.377.8500
www.townofgraftonwi.gov

TOWN OF GRAFTON

Annual Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025

*Join us for the Town Hall Open House on
Wednesday, December 17 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.*

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR TOWN BOARD

After 30 years of planning, preparation and saving, we are proud and excited about moving into our new town hall. While most internal modifications are complete, the expansion of the parking lot will be completed next summer. Similar to when roads are reconstructed, the gravel parking lot base needs to go through a winter freeze-thaw cycle to be fully compacted to avoid settling of the new paving.

On the challenges side, we have been dealing with a contaminated landfill now for over 25 years. Testing has confirmed that the contamination plume has moved further down-gradient and has affected several homes in the Edgewater subdivision. This will require us to extend Village of Grafton water to that area to assure safe drinking and bathing water into the future. This will be a significant expense and will likely require borrowing. We have not carried any debt for many years since we paid off the last water extension around 2015.

Planning for how to manage future residential and commercial development is also always a challenge. With the neighboring villages and cities aggressively extending sewer and water service into town areas, we must look at ways for developers to consider the town as a better option. There are some areas where allowing single-family condos at higher density is a better option than the risk of having the land annexed and developed into high-density apartments. The old development paradigm of low-density, high-acreage lots is a thing of the past. We have not had a town subdivision application since the early 2000s. Many people think that all of the apartments on Port Washington Rd and all of the new homes along Pleasant Valley road are in the town; they are all in the Village of Grafton, and we had no input on them at all.

On the more positive side, if you are a long-time town resident or one of the more than 75 new families who have moved into town in the past year, Grafton is a wonderful place to live and raise a family with great churches, schools, and extra-curricular options in a safe and well-served community.

We look forward to having everyone stop by sometime this year and visit us at our new location, and meet our new Town Clerk Laurie Arendt and Administrative Assistant Heidi Zachow. From all of us at Town Hall, thank you for trusting us to run your town. We will continue to do our best to manage your resources responsibly while providing the best services possible.

From all of us on the Town Board, Plan Commission, and our town staff, however you celebrate this holiday season may you enjoy it to its fullest.

Lester Bartel, Jr.

TOWN CHAIRMAN
Lester Bartel, Jr.

TOWN SUPERVISORS
Tom Grabow
Mary Gosewehr
Tom Sykora
Jeff Thoma

TOWN OFFICE HOURS
Mondays-Thursdays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAYS
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays
(June thru September)

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS
Closed December 24 and 25
December 31 and January 1

2026 ELECTION DATES

FEBRUARY 17
Spring Primary
APRIL 7
Spring Election
AUGUST 11
Partisan Primary
NOVEMBER 3
General Election

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP
January 5, 2026
January 12, 2026

2026 CONTEMPLATED
ROAD PROJECTS
Lakeland Road
Fairhaven Drive
Howard Drive

2025 TAX BILL COLLECTION INFORMATION

The end of the year is tax time. There are several ways to pay your taxes this year:

- **Pay your taxes from home:** Tax payments can be made via our website (www.townofgrafftonwi.gov) using a MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express card. There is a 2.39% convenience fee added to online transactions if using a credit card or a \$1.50 fee for e-check.
- **Pay your taxes at the Town Hall:** Payments are accepted in person during normal office hours or you can use our drop box if the office is closed. All payments paid via drop box will be deposited the next business day.
- **Mail your tax payment:** Payments can also be mailed to the Town Hall, PO Box 143, Grafton, WI 53024.

If paying by either mail or drop box and you would like a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

ONLINE TAX INFORMATION ACCESS

Additional information about your tax bill is available through the Ozaukee County website.

You can find out the amount of your tax bill in late November instead of waiting for your tax bill to arrive in the mail. If you escrow your taxes, you can also see if the payment has posted from your bank.



Sign up for the notification program through the Ozaukee County Tax Bill Text/Email Notification Program Sign-Up Page at <https://tinyurl.com/mrw-48mdh> or by scanning this QR.

NEW TOWN HALL OPEN HOUSE

If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the new Grafton Town Hall at 1220 Falls Road, here is your chance!

Join us for the Town Hall Open House on Wednesday, December 17 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.

You'll have the opportunity to check out our meeting room and office as well as see where voting will now occur. You'll also have the opportunity to chat with staff and officials. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Pay your in-full or first tax installment at a bank location:** **Horicon Bank** (formerly Cornerstone), 2090 Wisconsin Avenue, will accept exact amount check payment with no refunds. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. Monday through 5 p.m. Friday. **Port Washington State Bank**, 2080 Washington St. will take exact payments or provide a refund for the difference. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. through 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. until noon. You can pay either in the lobby or through the drive-thru at either bank.

If your escrow check is more than your tax bill and you need a refund, please go to Port Washington State Bank for immediate cash back. The town can also issue a check refund, which will take a few days to process.

Note: The Town Hall is open for final December tax payments on Tuesday, December 30 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

OBTAINING A DOG LICENSE IN THE TOWN

All dog licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 each year, regardless of when purchased. Puppies should be registered by six months of age (WI Stat §174.05). Spayed/neutered dogs are \$5, unaltered dogs are \$10, and multiple dogs are \$35.

Renewals are due by March 31st of each year, and a late fee of \$5.00 will apply for late renewals.

Please bring a current Rabies Certificate that includes the vaccine manufacturer, expiration date, and vaccine serial number (WI Stat §174.07). If mailing, enclose a copy of the certificate with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your license and tag in the mail.

COMMON QUESTIONS: RIGHT OF WAY

We receive many calls every year asking about the Right of Way (ROW). It is easy to calculate the right of way for your property: Measure 33 feet from the center of the roadway toward your property. The town maintains the roadside in the ROW with mowing and plowing, but property owners may also at their own expense.

Many ROWs also include a ditch. Your ditch is meant to be wet: it collects your property water and road runoff. If you run your downspouts or sump pump to the ditch, that will increase the amount of ditch water, especially after it rains. Keeping your ditch free of debris and plant growth will aid in the dispersment of this water.